We at Ocean Passages, Tall Ships Portland, and Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts of America want to thank you for letting your child come sail with us on the adventure of a lifetime! Your child will spend the next week onboard the *Harvey Gamage* sailing along the Gulf of Maine learning traditional sailing skills.

Here are a few important pieces of information to remember as your child embarks on this voyage:

**Watching the Ship Leave/Arrive**

The ship will be leaving from Portland, and it will be returning to Portland. To watch the ship as it leaves and returns, we recommend that you park at Fort Allen Park and watch out over the mouth of the Fore River.

On Sunday, we will be leaving between 11am-12pm, and we will be sailing toward Cliff Island. Because we are not sure exactly when we are leaving, we cannot provide an exact time to watch on the Eastern Prom.

On Friday, we will be returning by 10am, and we will be sailing from Eagle Island. Again, we recommend watching the ship return at Fort Allen Park on the Eastern Prom.

**Parental Boundaries**

We understand it can be difficult sending your child away to sail on a Tall Ship, but we do ask that you respect their boundaries on this voyage. We are a certified Sail Training Vessel with decades of experience in at-sea education, ship operations and repair, so we ask that you trust us to care for your child over the next week.

Please do not try contacting your child unless it is an emergency. Their phones will be stowed as soon as they board the ship, so they will not be able to contact you. (Below is a phone tree to follow in case you do have an emergency.)

Also, when we make our port stops, please do not try to meet up with the ship. When we are at port, we have a set schedule to follow, and meeting with parents can disrupt the rhythm of the program for both your child and the other students.

**Contacting the Ship**

The ship does have a satellite phone, so we are able to call out from the ship in case of emergency. If you have an emergency that needs to be reported to your child, please follow the below phone tree as a means of contacting the ship:

1. XXX
2. XXX
3. XXX

**Tracking the Ship**

Our Ocean Passages website tracker ([www.ocean-passages.org/track](http://www.ocean-passages.org/track)) is not always the most reliable. Please do not be concerned if it has not been updated in a few days or it shows an error sign. It does not indicate an emergency. Another great way to track our ship is using AIS online:

1. Go to [www.marinetraffic.com](http://www.marinetraffic.com)
2. In the search box on the top right of the page, type in “SSV Harvey Gamage”
3. Scroll down the page a bit and click on the words “Latest Position ⮚⮚” located in the Google Map box
4. A large Google Map should appear with a pink dot indicating the *Harvey Gamage*

**Leaving the Ship**

In the unlikely event that your child wants to leave the ship, you are expected to pick them up at the port of our convenience.

**Itinerary and Program Cancellation**

The final float plan is subject to change based on weather, safety, crew and/or student health issues and other factors generally beyond our control. The final float plan will be determined by the Captain of the ship. The program will not be cancelled unless we determine there is a direct danger to our students, crew, or ship.

**Safety**

Ocean Passages has made a commitment to the safety of its crew and shipmates by purchasing MedAire, a medical emergency provider that serves ships in remote locations. Treatment facilities aboard consist of a MedAire medical kit administered by the ship’s medical officer and a 24/7 medical consulting service via radio with MedAire’s trained medical professionals. If needed, we immediately initiate medical evacuation.

Again, we want to thank you for your trust on this voyage. We are excited to set sail with such an incredible group of students!

Sincerely,

The Ocean Passages, Tall Ships Portland, and The Pine Tree Council of the Boy Scouts of America